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Board of Regents Installs New Officers / Pilot Parish-Wide Postsecondary Education Fair Helps Students Plan For The Future

The Louisiana Board of Regents installed its 2003 officers at a meeting today in Baton Rouge.

Taking over the helm as Board chairman is William T. "Ron" Roberts, of Shreveport. Roberts is vice president of the Shreveport certified public accounting firm Roberts, Cherry and Company.

Roland M. Toups, of Baton Rouge, was installed today as the Board's vice-chairman. Toups is Chairman of Turner Industries, LTD.

The newly-installed secretary of the Board of Regents is Frances T. Henry of Baton Rouge. Henry was a classroom teacher and member of local, state, and national professional organizations from 1958-1980.

The Louisiana Board of Regents hosted a pilot parish-wide Postsecondary Education Fair for Madison Parish at McCall High School in Tallulah, LA, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2003. The fair, the first of its kind in Louisiana, was attended by all 8th - 12th grade public school students, teachers and counselors in Madison Parish. The goal of the event was to provide information to students, teachers and counselors that will help students make the appropriate preparations while in high school for success after graduation. The fair was divided into two sessions, both at McCall High School. The morning session (9:00 to 11:00 a.m.) was attended by students and faculty from Tallulah High School. The afternoon session (12:30-2:30 p.m.) was for McCall High School.

The day's agenda included several valuable presentations for students on preparing for life after high school. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOFSA) shared information on eligibility requirements for Louisiana's TOPS tuition exemption program, the Louisiana Board of Regents offered tips on how to begin planning in high school for postsecondary education success, and the Louisiana Department of Labor was on hand to deliver an informative presentation entitled "Career Exploration." In addition, Dr. James Cofer, the new president of the University of Louisiana-Monroe addressed attendees on the value of early preparation for college.

In addition, students were provided ample opportunity to visit with college and career representatives at information booths set up in the school gym. Louisiana public colleges and universities represented at the fair included Louisiana Tech, Grambling, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, LSU- Baton Rouge, LSU-Shreveport, Southern University- Baton Rouge, Southern University - Shreveport, McNeese, Northwestern, Louisiana Delta Community College, and the Louisiana Technical College. Representatives from all four branches of the U.S. military will also be on hand to provide information on military service career options.

“This event focuses on a variety of critical issues in improving student access to higher education and enhancing the chance for success once enrolled,” said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie. “A student who intends to enroll in one of Louisiana’s public colleges or universities must .”

While the students were learning how to prepare for life after high school, teachers and counselors received training in the school library on the administration and use of the Regents-sponsored EPAS assessment. EPAS (ACT’s Educational Planning and Assessment System) is designed to help students better prepare to meet their educational and career goals. The tests are administered statewide to eighth- and tenth-grade students in public schools. Both assessments include academic and career sections and serve as tools to help students, parents and educators identify student career interests, academic strengths and weaknesses and the educational efforts and foundation necessary to meet their career goals.

The Board of Regents hopes eventually to expand the postsecondary education fair program to all parishes.